

Additional chart coverage may be found in CATP2, Catalog of Nautical Charts.

## SECTOR 6 — CHART INFORMATION

## SECTOR 6

### THE HEBRIDES

**Plan.**—This sector describes the W side of the Outer Hebrides. The descriptive sequence is from S to N.

#### General Remarks

**6.1** The Hebrides (Western Isles), formed by two groups of islands, lie between the parallels of 55°25'N and 58°30'N, and the meridians of 5°26'W and 8°40'W. The Outer Hebrides lie W of the N part of Scotland, being divided from it by the Sea of the Hebrides and The Minch. This group extends 113 miles NNE from Barra Head to the Butt of Lewis. Except at the S extremity, the only navigable channels leading between these islands are the Sound of Barra and the Sound of Harris. The islands are comparatively low, being mostly less than 150m high. They consist chiefly of bleak stretches of bog or moorland, interspersed with numerous lakes and inlets of the sea, and by ranges of hills in Barra, South Uist, and Harris.

The fundamental rock of The Hebrides generally is gneiss, traversed by veins of granite and trap. The soil is bog and varies up to 6m in depth. On the W side, blown shells and sand mix with the bog and produces good pasture land. With the exception of a portion of the N part of Lewis and a few small patches on the other islands, the E coasts are bleak and mostly sterile.

**Tides—Currents.**—The tidal currents along the W side of The Outer Hebrides are somewhat uncertain in direction, but may be expected to set NE during the rising tide and SW during the falling tide. These currents are generally weak, but their rates increase off the salient points along the coast and in some of the passages lying between The Hebrides and the off-lying islands. Generally, they attain rates of 1.5 to 2 knots at springs.

Except in the Sound of Causamul (57°36'N., 7°33'W.) and off parts of the W coast of North Uist (57°36'N., 7°19'W.), the tidal currents may be expected to set NE along the W side of The Outer Hebrides from about 3 hours 45 minutes after HW at Dover until 2 hours 15 minutes before the following HW at Dover. They set SW during the remainder of the cycle. Inshore along the W coast of North Uist and in the Sound of Causamul, the tidal currents turn about 1 hour 30 minutes earlier than those along the rest of the W side of The Outer Hebrides. They set N, parallel to the shore, from 2 hours 15 minutes after HW at Dover until 3 hours 45 minutes before the following HW at Dover and S, parallel to the shore, during the remainder of the cycle.

In contrast with the simultaneous change in direction of the tidal currents along the W side of The Outer Hebrides, the tidal currents along the E side of the islands change direction progressively N along the coast. Along the E side of The Outer Hebrides, the tidal currents off the S islands change direction about 4 hours before those off Lewis, the N most island of the group, the time differences varying proportionately between these extremities. Off the E side of the S islands, the tidal currents set NE from 1 hour after HW at Dover until 5 hours 45

minutes before the following HW at Dover. They set SW during the remainder of the cycle. Off the E side of Lewis, the currents set NE from 5 hours after HW at Dover until about 1 hour before the following HW at Dover. They set SW during the remainder of the cycle.

The current setting E to the S of Berneray (57°43'N., 7°11'W.) runs for about 4 hours, from 2 hours after HW at Dover until 5 hours before the following HW at Dover. At the beginning, this current sets SE, but it shifts to E and finally sets NE. Generally, it attains a rate of slightly greater than 2 knots. Tide rips are reported to occur to the SE of Berneray. The current setting W runs for 7 or 8 hours, from about 5 hours 30 minutes before until about 2 hours after HW at Dover. It attains a lesser rate than that of the E current.

The tidal currents in the Sound of Berneray (56°48'N., 7°38'W.) follow the same chronological sequence as those to the S of the island of Berneray. Generally, these currents attain rates of 2.5 knots at springs. When an E wind blows with the E current, a dangerous sea develops in the E part of this sound.

The tidal currents set E through the Sound of Mingulay (56°50'N., 7°37'W.) from about 1 hour after to 6 hours after HW at Dover. They set W from about 5 hours 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after HW at Dover. The E current attains a rate of 3 knots at springs and causes heavy tide rips to extend up to 0.3 mile from the N extremity of Mingulay (56°49'N., 7°38'W.). The W current attains a rate of 2 to 2.5 knots at springs. The E current turns S along the E side of Mingulay and joins the current setting through the Sound of Berneray. Whirlpools and rips occur in the area where these currents meet.

In the middle of the Sound of Pabbay (56°52'N., 7°33'W.), the tidal currents set E from 1 hour after to 6 hours after HW at Dover. They set W from 5 hours 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after HW at Dover. Close inshore, the currents turn 3 hours earlier. The E current attains a rate of 3.5 to 4 knots at springs and about half that rate at neaps. It is strongest between its first and third hours. The W current usually attains a rate of 0.8 knot at springs.

The tidal currents in the Sound of Sandray (56°54'N., 7°31'W.) are similar to those in the Sound of Mingulay and change direction about the same times.

The flood current sets E and the ebb current sets W through Vatersay Sound (56°57'N., 7°32'W.) and in the E approach to Castle Bay (56°57'N., 7°29'W.). However, the flood current sets into and the ebb current sets out of the bay itself. The tidal currents in Vatersay Sound are similar to those in the Sound of Mingulay and change direction at about the same times.

The flood current sets into both the E and W entrances of the Sound of Barra (57°04'N., 7°22'W.) and the ebb current sets out of both entrances. Generally, there is no tidal current in Oitir Mhor (57°02'N., 7°21'W.). The tidal current sets SE into the W entrance and NW into the E entrance from 1 hour 15 minutes after HW at Dover to 4 hours 45 minutes before the following HW at Dover. They set in the opposite directions for

the remainder of the cycle. The tidal currents setting in the Sound of Hellisay (57°00'N., 7°21'W.) and the Sound of Eriskay (57°05'N., 7°16'W.) are similar.

In Drover Channel (57°04'N., 7°22'W.), where the currents attain rates of 3 to 4 knots, the SE current has a strong tendency to set vessels toward the foul ground lying N and NW of Fuday (57°03'N., 7°23'W.) and the NW current has a strong tendency to set vessels toward Drover Rocks (57°04'N., 7°23'W.).

The tidal currents must be carefully considered when navigating the Sound of Barra, in the vicinity of the Heisker Islands (57°31'N., 7°38'W.), in the Sound of Monach (57°33'N., 7°33'W.), and in the Sound of Causamul.

The tidal currents in the Sound of Monach are the same as those along the rest of the W side of The Outer Hebrides. They set NNE through the sound from 3 hours 45 minutes after HW at Dover until 2 hours 15 minutes before the following HW at Dover and SSW through the sound during the remainder of the cycle. Generally, these currents attain a rate of 2 knots at springs.

Closer inshore and in the Sound of Causamul, the tidal currents turn about 1 hour 30 minutes earlier than those along the rest of the coast. They set N, parallel to the shore, from 2 hours 15 minutes after HW at Dover until 3 hours 45 minutes before the following HW at Dover and S, parallel to the shore, during the remainder of the cycle. After passing through the Sound of Causamul, the N current turns NE to set along the NW coast of North Uist and the S current turns SE to set along the SW coast of the island and toward the islet of Baleshare. This latter current passes to the E of the Sound of Monach.

The tidal currents in the vicinity of Haskeir Island (57°42'N., 7°41'W.) set NE from 4 hours after HW at Dover to 2 hours before the following HW at Dover and SW during the remainder of the cycle. Along the N coast of North Uist and in the passages leading between the islands that lie to the N, the tidal currents set E from 1 hour 30 minutes after HW at Dover until 5 hours before the following HW at Dover. They set W during the remainder of the cycle.

The tidal currents set strongly through the Sound of Berneray and attain rates of 2.5 knots at springs. In the Sound of Shillay (57°31'N., 7°41'W.), the tidal currents attain rates of 1 knot at springs. In the NE part of the Sound of Harris (57°43'N., 7°06'W.), the tidal currents in the narrow parts of the navigable channels attain rates of 5 knots at springs and not much less at neaps. In the open parts of these channels, the currents do not exceed a rate of 2.5 knots. These currents do not appear to be much influenced by the wind.

The tidal currents set NW through the islands of the Hermetray Group (57°40'N., 7°04'W.) from 2 hours 15 minutes after HW at Dover until 3 hours 45 minutes before the following HW at Dover. They set SE through the group from 3 hours 45 minutes before until 2 hours 15 minutes after HW at Dover. These tidal currents attain rates of 3 knots at springs in some of the narrow parts of the channels.

Between Toe Head (57°50'N., 7°08'W.) and Gallan Head (58°15'N., 7°02'W.), the tidal currents are weak except near Gasker (57°59'N., 7°17'W.), where they occasionally attain a rate of 2 knots. Between Loch Roag (58°13'N., 6°50'W.) and the Butt of Lewis (58°31'N., 6°15'W.), the tidal currents set NE along the coast from 3 hours after HW at Dover until 2 hours

15 minutes before the following HW at Dover. They set SW from 2 hours 15 minutes before HW until 3 hours 45 minutes after HW at Dover. Both the NE and SW currents attain rates of 1.5 knots at springs. Farther offshore, the tidal currents are rotatory in character.

Near the Butt of Lewis, the tidal currents close inshore attain rates of 4 to 5 knots at springs. At a position about 1 mile N of the Butt of Lewis, their rates are reduced to about 3 knots at springs. The flood current sets NE and gradually veers to ENE from about 3 hours 30 minutes after HW at Dover until 2 hours 30 minutes before the following HW at Dover. The ebb current sets between WNW and NW from about 2 hours 15 minutes before HW until 3 hours 15 minutes after HW at Dover.

In the Sound of Taransay (57°53'N., 6°56'W.), the flood current sets E and N and the ebb current sets S and W. However, both of these currents are weak. The tidal currents are not perceptible in West Loch Tarbert (57°55'N., 6°53'W.), in Loch Resort (58°03'N., 7°00'W.), in Loch Tealasavay (58°03'N., 7°03'W.), and in Loch Tamanavay (58°04'N., 7°03'W.).

At a position about 1 mile W of Scarp (58°02'N., 7°08'W.), the flood current sets NNW and attains a rate of 0.8 knot at springs. Outside the entrances to West Loch Roag (58°13'N., 6°53'W.) and East Loch Roag (58°14'N., 6°47'W.), the tidal currents set E from 3 hours 45 minutes after HW until 2 hours 15 minutes before the following HW at Dover and W for the remainder of the cycle. These currents do not attain rates of more than 1 knot at springs and are mostly insignificant inside the lochs.

At a position about 6 miles SW of Sula Sgeir (59°06'N., 6°09'W.), the tidal currents set in a SE direction from 6 hours before until HW at Dover and in a NW direction for the remainder of the cycle. These currents attain rates of 1 knot at springs.

At a position about 9 miles E of Rona (59°07'N., 5°50'W.), the tidal currents set E from 6 hours before HW until the time of HW at Dover and W for the remainder of the cycle. They attain rates of 0.5 knot.

**Regulations.**—An IMO-adopted Deep Water Route, which may best be seen on the chart, has been established between The Outer Hebrides and the off-lying islands of the Saint Kilda Group and the Flannan Isles. This route extends from a position lying 20 miles ESE of Saint Kilda to a position lying 30 miles WSW of the Butt of Lewis. It has a width of 6.5 miles and a least depth of 34m. However, the least depth can be avoided with careful navigation and vessels can remain in depths of 50m or more. The designated route area has been fully surveyed to modern standards.

The IMO recommends that laden tankers of over 10,000 grt use this route, weather permitting, in preference to the more restricted waters of The Minch.

Vessels, laden or in ballast, should report by VHF to the Stornoway Coastguard station at least 1 hour prior to proceeding into and on their departure from the restricted waters of the Little Minch and North Minch. Such vessels should report using the format of the English Channel and Dover Strait Movement Reporting System (MAREP). See Pub. 140, Sailing Directions (Planning Guide) North Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, North Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

**Caution.**—Concentrations of fishing vessels may be encountered from June to December within the waters described in this sector.

Submarines exercise frequently, both surfaced and dived, within the waters described in this sector.

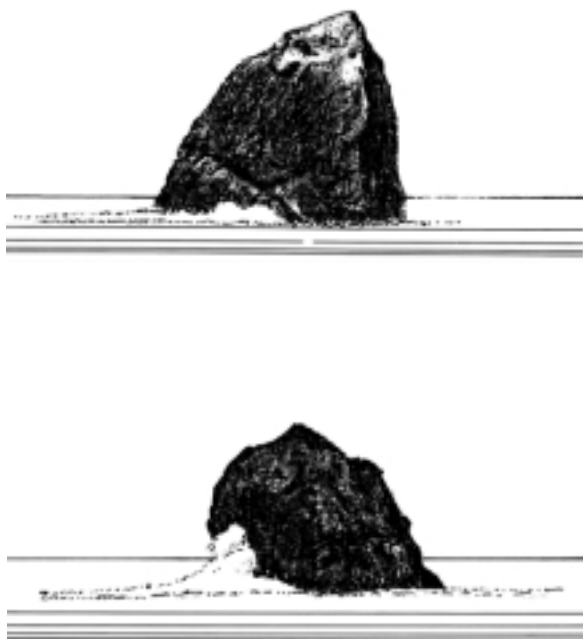
An area of traffic convergence lies about 15 miles W of the Butt of Lewis. Vessels following the IMO route, described in this sector, cross the Atlantic route leading between Cape Wrath and ports on the E coast of North America.

Several areas lying outside and adjacent to the IMO route, described in this sector, have not been fully surveyed to modern standards.

Ships passing to the W of Saint Kilda (57°49'N., 8°35'W) and the Flannan Isles (58°17'N., 7°35'W) are advised to keep well to seaward of these islands and the adjacent areas of incomplete surveys.

## Off-lying Islands and Dangers West and North of The Hebrides

**6.2 Rockall** (57°36'N., 13°41'W.), a conspicuous rocky islet, lies 200 miles WNW of Barra Head and is 19m high. It consists of coarse granite and is reported to be highly magnetic. The summit is sharp, pointed, and whitened by the deposit of sea birds. This islet, which is 25m wide at its base, has been reported to be radar conspicuous. It is marked by a light shown from a structure, 1m high, standing on the summit.



TWO VIEWS OF ROCKALL

Helens Reef, lying 2 miles ENE of Rockall, is small and has a least depth of 1.8m. It is steep-to and generally marked by breakers. The summit of this reef has been seen in the trough of the seas at LWS, but at HW and during good weather, it breaks only at long intervals. It was reported that breakers have been observed 3 to 4 miles E of the reef.

**Caution.**—A local magnetic anomaly exists in the vicinity of Rockall. The normal magnetic variation is reported to increase or decrease by up to 6° within 15 miles of the islet.

The light shown from the summit of Rockall may be extinguished for long periods following weather damage as access is extremely difficult.

**6.3 Saint Kilda Group** (57°49'N., 8°35'W.) consists of three islands and several rocks. The coasts of these islands and rocks are precipitous and are formed by great cliffs of a dark color, honey-combed with large caves.

The tidal currents in the vicinity of this group set NE from 1 hour after HW at Dover until 5 hours before the following HW at Dover. They set SW for the remainder of the cycle. These currents generally attain rates of 3 knots at springs.

From the vicinity of North Uist, this group of islands and rocks has the appearance of a number of pillars on the horizon, but the mountains become more distinct when closer in.

**Caution.**—Constantly recurring periods of bad weather prevail in this region and haze, mist, or fog often prevent the Saint Kilda Group from being seen until within a distance of 5 miles or less.

It is reported that strong magnetic anomalies exist in several areas within 10 miles of the Saint Kilda Group.

The inshore area around the Saint Kilda Group is largely unsurveyed. Extreme care should be exercised when proceeding inside the 50m curve.

**6.4 Saint Kilda** (57°49'N., 8°35'W.), the principle island of the group, rises to a peak, 424m high, at Conachair, near its NE end. This mountain has a smooth, conical appearance from the N and forms the highest cliff in the British Isles. The remainder of the island is hilly and has coasts formed by precipitous cliffs, 60 to 300m high. There are no trees or shrubs, but the hills are green to their summits. A gully, containing a stream, runs down the hillside on the W side of Conachair. This island was reported to be very radar conspicuous.

Dun, a large rock, lies close off the S end of Saint Kilda and is separated from it by a narrow channel which dries. Gob an Duin, on which stands the crumbling and inconspicuous ruins of a castle, is the SE extremity of this rock. Bìoda Mor, a hill, forms the summit of Dun. It is 174m high and serrated in a fantastic manner. A high and natural tunnel penetrates the rock 300m W of Gob an Duin. The sea flows through this tunnel, but below-water rocks make it unsafe for boats.

Levenish, a large and isolated rock, lies 1.2 miles E of Dun. It has nearly vertical sides and a round summit, 55m high. A ridge of rocks, which dries 1.5m, fronts its N side. A shoal, with a depth of 11m, lies about 0.4 mile W of this rock and there is often a confused sea in its vicinity. When the wind opposes the tidal current, tide rips are sometimes formed in the channel lying between Dun and Levenish.

**6.5 Village Bay** (57°48'N., 8°34'W.) lies on the E side of Saint Kilda and forms a small natural harbor. It is entered between Rubha an Uisge, the E extremity of the island, and Dun, 1 mile S. A village is situated near the head of the bay. It is reported (1990) that several modern buildings, which are used by a military detachment, stand in the vicinity of the

village. A lighted buoy is moored off the N side of the entrance to the bay and two lighted buoys are moored N of the W part of Dun.

A certain amount of swell is caused in the bay by strong SW winds and, during gales, violent squalls may come down from the hills. However, the holding ground is good and the bay affords safe anchorage. It is protected from the strength of all winds except from those between NE and SE. The bay is mostly frequented by trawlers seeking shelter during bad weather. The best anchorage is in a depth of 20m, sand over rock, in the middle of the bay. Two mooring buoys are situated in the bay and several small craft moorings lie close offshore. A lighted range, shown from cairns, leads to the anchorage. However, the cairns are reported to be difficult to distinguish.

**6.6 Loch a'Ghlinne** (57°49'N., 8°36'W.), a small indentation, lies on the N side of Saint Kilda. It is sheltered except from the N and affords anchorage to small vessels in a depth of 38m. This anchorage is not comfortable because of the swell, but is often used by trawlers when a SE gale is blowing into Village Bay.

Soay lies close WNW of Saint Kilda. This island has a rounded summit, 378m high, which descends on its W side in a nearly vertical black cliff. The E side slopes to the coast in a steep, grassy incline and terminates to the N and S in vertical cliffs.

Boreray lies 3.5 miles NE of Saint Kilda and rises to a pinnacle summit, 384 high, near its center. The coasts of this island consist of black cliffs which rise into curiously-shaped peaks, 100 to 300m high. The S side of this island is covered with grass.

Stac Lee, lying 0.3 mile W of Boreray, and Stac an Armin, lying 0.2 mile NNW of Boreray, are two prominent rocks which are similar in outline. The former is 172m high and the latter is 196m high. Gannets breed on these rocks and their upper parts, in consequence, are quite white in appearance. A navigable channel, which is free from dangers, leads between Stac Lee and the W side of Boreray.

**Whale Rock** (57°55'N., 8°01'W.), with a least depth of 5.4m, lies 18 miles ENE of Saint Kilda. This rocky shoal is steep-to and the sea does not break over it, even in heavy weather.

**6.7 Flannan Isles** (58°17'N., 7°35'W.), lying 44 miles WSW of the Butt of Lewis, consist of several islets and rocks which are separated into three detached groups. These groups are fringed by shoals and foul ground. Gealtair More, the E most rock, is 7.6m high and Eilean More, the largest islet, is 86m high. A light is shown from a prominent tower, 23m high, standing on the NE side of the latter islet.



FLANNAN ISLES LIGHT

A shoal, with a depth of 4.6m, lies close SSE of the NE extremity of Sgeir Righinn, the S most islet of the E group. The sea breaks on this shoal in bad weather. Another shoal, with a depth of 2.3m, lies about 0.2 mile NW of the N extremity of Soray, which is located 300m N of Sgeir Righinn. The Flannan Isles are reported to be radar conspicuous.

**Caution.**—The inshore area around the Flannan Isles is largely unsurveyed. Extreme care should be exercised when proceeding inside the 50m curve.

**6.8 Sula Sgeir** (59°06'N., 6°09'W.), a precipitous and rocky islet, lies 35 miles N of the Butt of Lewis. It is uninhabited, but is visited by fishermen in the summer. The SE and NW sides of the islet should not be approached too closely because of several off-lying rocks. A light is shown from a structure, 5m high, standing on the S extremity of this islet.

**Rona** (59°07'N., 5°49'W.), an uninhabited islet, lies 10 miles E of Sula Sgeir and is triangular in shape. Its N part is low and flat, while its S part consists of a steep hill. Vertical cliffs stand along the SE and W parts of the islet. A light is shown from a tower, 9m high, standing on the hill in the S part of the islet. Three buildings are situated close to the light.

**Caution.**—Rona should be approached with extreme care due to the surrounding seabed which is very irregular and consists of numerous rock pinnacles and boulders. In addition, the N extremity of the islet is difficult to distinguish from the N against the high background.

## The Hebrides

**6.9 Berneray** (56°47'N., 7°38'W.), a seabird haven, is the S most island of The Outer Hebrides. It is uninhabited and wedge-shaped when viewed from the NE or SW. The S side of the island consists of rugged cliffs. Shelter Rock, which dries 2.4m, lies about 150m N of the middle of the N side of this island. Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 15m about 0.3 mile ENE of the rock. The swell is not felt in this anchorage area, but it is not safe when a heavy sea is running.

**Barra Head** (56°47'N., 7°39'W.), 208m high, forms the S extremity of Berneray. A main light (Barra Head) is shown from a prominent stone tower, 18m high, standing near the W end of Berneray, 0.7 mile NW of Barra Head. For a description of the waters lying E of Berneray, see Sector 4.



BARRA HEAD

**Mingulay** (56°49'N., 07°39'W.) is an island lying close N of Berneray with six small and compact peaks. Its W side consists of precipitous cliffs, 35 to 270m high, which are densely populated by seabirds. Its E side slopes gradually down from the summits of the peaks. Anchorage is available in depths of

16 to 18m off the entrance to Mingulay Bay, which indents the E side of the island.

The Sound of Berneray is the passage leading between Berneray and Mingulay. Its fairway has a least depth of 12.8m, a least width of 0.2 mile, and is free of detached dangers. Geirum More, an islet, lies in the W end of this sound, about 200m SW of the S extremity of Mingulay. It is 49m high and has black cliffy sides. Vessels proceeding E through this sound usually experience a smooth passage.

**Pabbay** (56°51'N., 7°35'W.), an uninhabited island, lies 2 miles NE of the N end of Mingulay. The cliffs on the SW side of this island are marked by dark vertical clefts. Rosinish, a bare and rocky islet, lies close E of the island and is 40m high.

The Sound of Mingulay is the passage leading between Mingulay and Pabbay. Its fairway has a least depth of 26m and is free of dangers and obstructions except for Outer Heisker and Inner Heisker. The former is a group of four small islets, 36m high, lying 0.8 mile N of the N end of Mingulay. The latter is a group of three small islets lying 0.3 mile SW of the SW extremity of Pabbay. During heavy weather, the unevenness of the bottom between Outer Heisker and Inner Heisker causes the sea to break in this area. Therefore, vessels should pass to the S of Outer Heisker when a heavy sea is running.

The Sound of Pabbay leads between Pabbay, on the S side, and the islands of Sandray and Flodday, on the N side. The islets of Lingay and Greanamul lie near the middle of this sound, but the channels passing on either side of them are safe and the fairways have a least depth of about 14m.

Lingay, a circular-shaped islet, lies 0.5 mile N of Pabbay. It is 82m high and has cliffy, bold sides. Greanamul, 25m high, lies 0.7 mile E of Lingay. This islet is fringed by shoals on the NW and SE sides and a large rock lies close W of it. A shoal, with a least depth of 8.3m, lies close W of Lingay and the sea breaks over it in heavy weather.

**6.10 Sandray** (56°54'N., 7°30'W.) lies 2 miles NE of Pabbay. This island is uninhabited, 204m high, and a prominent sandy beach fringes its E side. A small shoal area, with depths of 12 to 16m, lies 1.8 miles E of the NE extremity of the island. It is reported that the sea in the vicinity of this shoal area is dangerous for small vessels during very strong SE winds.

Flodday lies 1 mile W of the NW end of Sandray. This island is 41m high and has black cliffs along its W side.

The Sound of Sandray is the passage that leads N of the islands of Sandray and Flodday and S of the islands of Muldoanich and Vatersay. This sound has a least width of 0.5 mile, but numerous rocks and shoals, which may best be seen on the chart, restrict the fairway to a least width of about 0.2 mile. The fairway has a least depth of 10.9m, but local knowledge is necessary because of the numerous dangers.

**Vatersay** (56°56'N., 7°33'W.) lies with its S end located 0.5 mile N of Sandray. This island is divided into two parts by a low and sandy isthmus. The N part of the island rises to a summit, 188m high. Tide rips are reported to occur off the W side of the N part of this island and vessels should avoid the area.

Vatersay Sound is the passage leading between the N side of Vatersay and the S side of Barra Island. The fairway has a least

depth of 6.4m. It has a least width of only about 200m and is so encumbered with numerous rocks and shoals that local knowledge is essential for transit. Tide rips occur at several places within this sound and the sea breaks heavily in a number of locations lying off both entrances.

**6.11 Barra Island** (57°00'N., 7°28'W.) is located on the N side of Vatersay Sound and is the largest island of the S group of The Outer Hebrides. This island has many hills and mountain peaks. Ben Heaval, the summit of this island, is 382m high and rises near the center of its S part. Ben Tangaval, 331m high, is prominent and rises at the SW side of the island.

The W side of the island consists of several rocky promontories and sandy bays. Doirlinn Head is located 0.7 mile N of the SW extremity of the island. It is formed by a high vertical bluff which is penetrated by a large cavern. Greian Head, a conspicuous point, is located 2.8 miles NNE of Doirlinn Head and is 43m high.

Ben Eoligarry stands on the peninsula of Kilbar near the N extremity of the island. This large hill is 101m high and green colored. A two-storied building stands on the NE slope of the hill and is conspicuous from the SE, but is difficult to distinguish from the NE. The ruins of several churches lie close SE of this building.

The N end of the Barra terminates in a peninsula which is connected to the main island by a low neck of land. Several small sandhills, over which the sea washes at HW, stand on this low neck. Ben Erival, a hill, rises 2.7 miles S of the N extremity of the island and is 198m high. The Fall of Ben Erival is a prominent point where the N slope of this hill drops abruptly to the sea, near the S end of the low neck. Dun Scurrial, a steep hill, rises 1 mile S of the N extremity of Barra Island. It is 65m high and surmounted by some ruins.

For a description of the channel leading to Castle Bay, on the S coast of Barra Island, see Sector 4.

**6.12 The Sound of Barra** (57°02'N., 6°20'W.) is the passage leading between Barra Island and the S end of South Uist, 3.5 miles NE. It is encumbered with numerous islands, rocks, and shoals. In the S and middle parts of the sound, many of the shoals are marked by weeds and are visible during the day, but breakers are the only indication of the shoals lying in the N part. The navigable channel within the sound is winding and narrowed in places to a width of less than 400m. The main fairway has a least depth of 6.7m. Natural ranges are often used when navigating this passage and great caution should be exercised as they are often quite indefinite. Local knowledge is essential for transiting the channel, but pilots are not available.

**Weavers Castle** (57°03'N., 7°18'W.), a very conspicuous building, stands on the S part of the Stack Islands, which lie near the NE entrance of the sound, 0.5 mile SSW of the S end of Eriskay.

**Eriskay** (57°04'N., 7°17'W.), a large island, lies 5 miles ENE of the N end of Barra Island and 1 mile S of the SE end of South Uist. Ben Scrien, a sharp and well-defined peak, is the summit. It is 183m high and rises near the center of the island.

Fuday lies 2 miles E of the N end of Barra. This island is 87m high and has three flat-topped hills. Gighay lies 2.5 miles SE of Fuday. This island is 93m high and has a summit with a cliffy face at its SW side. Hellisay lies close SW of Fuday. This

island is 71m high and has two distinct peaks. Greanamul, a small islet, is 25m high and covered with grass. It is the outermost danger in the chain of obstructions which extend up to 1 mile NW from the W side of Hellisay. Drying rocks and shoal water extend up to about 350m W of this islet.

Traillisker, a wedge-shaped rock, lies about 0.3 mile N of the W extremity of Fuday. It is 1.2m high and black. This rock is conspicuous, except at HW, as it contrasts with the white sand in the vicinity.

**6.13 Fiaray** (57°04'N., 7°39'W.), forming the SW entrance point of the sound, lies 0.8 mile N of the N extremity of Barra Island. This island is low and fringed by foul ground. It has two flat hills, the highest of which is 32m high. Two beacons are situated on the NE side of this island. The Sound of Fiaray, a narrow passage, leads between this island and the N extremity of Barra Island. It has a least depth of 3m, but the approach at the E side is obstructed by shoals with depths of less than 1.8m.

**Lingay** (57°05'N., 7°22'W.), a grass-covered island, lies 1.5 miles W of the W extremity of Eriskay and is 49m high. It appears to have a single summit when viewed from the NW, but two peaks are visible from the S. Numerous islets and rocks lie between this island and the coasts of Eriskay and South Uist. The entire area is foul and can only be used by small craft.

**Orosay** (57°05'N., 7°22'W.), a small island, forms the NW entrance point of the sound. It lies close off the SW side of South Uist about 3 miles NNW of Lingay. This island is 30m high and lies on an area of drying sands. Except at HWS, it is connected to the SW side of South Uist by these drying sands.

**Washington Reef** (57°06'N., 7°28'W.), with a least depth of 2.4m, lies about 2 miles NNW of Fiaray. It consists of an extensive shoal area, which is marked by breakers, lying on the N side of the main channel.

Temple Rock, with a least depth of 2.1m, lies 0.7 mile N of the NW extremity of Fiaray and on the S side of the main channel.

Outer Hasgeir Fiaray, a group of rocks, is located 2 miles NNE of Fiaray. It lies on the NE side of the main channel and the highest rock dries 2.1m. Another group of rocks, the highest of which dries 2.4m, lies 0.4 mile ESE of Outer Hasgeir Fiaray.

Drover Rocks, a group of drying rocks, lies about 0.3 mile N of the N extremity of Fuday, on the N side of the main channel. Old Womans Rock, which dries, lies on the S side of the main channel, about 0.5 mile W of the N extremity of Fuday.

**6.14 McGillivray Patch** (57°03'N., 7°20'W.), a reef, lies about 1.5 miles WNW of the S extremity of Eriskay. It has a least depth of 2.1m and lies on the NE side of the main channel. McVean Rock, which has a least depth of 2.4m, lies on the SW side of the main channel, 0.3 mile W of McGillivray Patch.

Bo Tanna, a two-headed rock, is located about 1 mile E of the E extremity of Fuday. It dries 0.7m and lies on the SW side of the main channel.

**Binch Rock** (57°02'N., 7°17'W.), with a least depth of 3.1m, lies about 1.2 miles ENE of the NE extremity of Gighay. It forms the E most danger of the sound and is marked by a buoy.

Although only one channel completely traverses the Sound of Barra, different names are applied to certain reaches. Washington Channel is that reach of the fairway which passes between Washington Reef and the shoals lying N of Temple Rock. Drover Channel is that reach of the fairway which passes between Drover Rocks and the N extremity of Fuday.

Temple Channel, a secondary reach, for moderate-draft vessels, passes S of Washington Channel and enters the W end of the sound by passing over the shoals that lie between the N extremity of Fiaray and Temple Rock. It has a least depth of 4.6m and is preferred to Washington Channel, by those vessels able to negotiate the shallower depths, because of the comparative smoothness of the water and the distinctness of the natural ranges. However, caution is also necessary because several shoals lie close adjacent to the fairway on either side. This channel joins the main channel of the sound close NE of Fiaray.

**6.15** The central group of The Outer Hebrides are those islands that extend 40 miles N from the Sound of Barra to the Sound of Harris. South Uist, Benbecula, and North Uist, the three largest islands, are separated only by very narrow and partly drying waterways and for purposes of navigation can be considered as being one large island.

**South Uist** (57°14'N., 7°19'W.) lies on the N side of the Sound of Barra. The W side of this island is mostly low and flat with a hilly middle part. Easaval, a long and flat-topped hill, is 241m high and rises 1 mile inland, near the S end of the island. Cruachan, another hill, is 168m high and rises 1.7 miles E of Easaval. The dip or point where the S slope of Easaval appears to meet the N slope of Cruachan is used as a navigation mark by vessels transiting Washington Channel.

The E part of the island is mountainous and barren. Benmore, the N and highest range, has three prominent summits. It rises on the E side, 10 miles N of the S end of the island and is 618m high.

**Benbecula** (57°26'N., 7°18'W.) lies between South Uist and North Uist and is connected to both by causeways. An airport is situated on this island. With the exception of Rueval, a hill rising to a height of 123m in the N part, this island is flat and low.

**North Uist** (57°26'N., 7°18'W.) is hilly with the E part being considerably higher. Ben Eaval, the summit, is 345m high and rises 1.5 miles NW of the SE extremity of the island. This mountain appears wedge-shaped, when viewed from the E or W, and a peculiar and distinct double-peaked hill, 143m high, stands on its S slope. Several hills stand along the E and N sides of the island and two round-topped hills rise near the N extremity. Ben More, the S and higher of these two hills, is 189m high and Ben Bhreac, the N hill, is 148m high. The W side of the island is comparatively flat, but has a few hills, 120 to 150m high.

**Rubha Ardvule** (57°14'N., 7°27'W.), a conspicuous point, is located 9 miles N of the S end of South Uist. A ruined castle is situated 0.5 mile inland, 2 miles NE of this point.

**Ardvachar Point** (57°23'N., 7°25'W.) is located 9 miles N of Rubha Ardvule. The N part of this point is low and rocky, but the S part rises to a height of 18m. Several drying rocks and foul ground extend up to about 1.5 miles W of this point. A conspicuous church building stands near the shore, 1 mile E of



this point. It is long, plain, and has a slatted structure with a belfry.

**Rubha More** (57°34'N., 7°29'W.) is located 6.5 miles NW of the SW extremity of North Uist. A prominent square rock, which resembles a castle, stands on a small hill which rises 1 mile ENE of this point.

**Caution.**—At night or during conditions of low visibility, vessels are advised not to approach the W coast of South Uist in depths of less than 30m because of the existence of numerous shoals, rocks, and obstructions.

**6.16 Heisker Islands** (Monach Islands) (57°31'N., 7°38'W.), a group of five, lies between 4 and 7.5 miles WSW of Rubha More. These islands are low and fronted by numerous dangers. During the winter, heavy swells and dangerous seas may be encountered in the vicinity of this group.

**Shillay** (57°31'N., 7°42'W.) is the westernmost island of the group. A light stands on the SW side of this island.

**Ceann Iar** (57°31'N., 7°40'W.) lies 0.3 mile E of Shillay. A flat-topped hill, 13m high, rises 0.2 mile SW of the N extremity of this island and is prominent.

**Ceann Ear** (57°31'N., 7°37'W.) the largest island of the group, lies 0.5 mile E of Ceann Iar. The tallest peak of this island is 15m high and rises on its NE side.

The Sound of Shiles leads between Shillay and Ceann Iar. A chain of rocks extends across this sound from the E extremity of Shillay to the W extremity of Ceann Iar. This chain of rocks, together with several reefs, transforms the N part of the sound into a sheltered harbor. The harbor is narrow, but affords safe anchorage for very small vessels. The reefs and detached dangers restrict the navigable fairway in the sound to a least width of about 100m. The entrance channel has a least depth of 7m, but shoals lie close to the sides of the fairway. Edward Rock, which dries 3.3m, forms the E entrance point and lies at the N end of a reef that extends N from the W extremity of Ceann Iar. Several detached shoals and rocks lie up to 0.6 mile NE of Edward Rock. Calf Sgeir, the NE most rock, has a least depth of 1.2m. Anchorage is available within the sound in depths up to 11m, clay, for very small vessels. Local knowledge is advised.

**6.17 Huskeiran** (57°33'N., 7°34'W.), a reef, lies between 0.7 mile and 1.5 miles NW of Shillay. West Dureberg, another reef, lies N and almost parallel to Huskeiran, between 1.7 and 2.3 miles NNW of Shillay. Raiskier, a prominent rock, is 6m high and is the tallest part of an above and below-water reef which extends up to 0.6 mile SW of Ceann Iar. Middle Dureberg lies 2.3 miles ENE of West Dureberg. This reef dries up to 2m in its SW part and is marked by breakers when covered. A rock, with a least depth of 5m, lies about 1.2 miles WSW of Huskeiran. Johns North Channel, which passes between Middle Dureberg and West Dureberg, is deep and free of dangers.

**Causamul** (57°36'N., 7°36'W.), an islet, lies 1.5 miles W of Ard an Runair, the W extremity of North Uist, and is 8m high. Its S part is covered with grass and its N part is formed by bare, flat rock.

**Charlotte Rocks** (57°35'N., 7°37'W.), one of which dries 0.9m, is a group of rocks lying about 0.8 mile S of Causamul. Deasker is a bare and flat rock, 3m high. It stands on the reef

which lies about midway between Causamul and the Heisker Islands.

The Sound of Monach and The Sound of Causamul are two passages which lead between the W coast of North Uist, on the E side, and Causamul and the Heisker Islands, on the W side. The Sound of Monach lies between Stockay Reef and the foul ground that extends up to about 2 miles WSW from Rubha More. Its fairway has a least width of 0.3 mile and a least depth of 7.3m. The Sound of Causamul lies between Causamul and Ard an Runair, the W extremity of North Uist. Causamul Rock, with a depth of 2.4m, lies about midway between the islet and the mainland. At LW, this rock sometimes breaks, but in heavy weather it is always marked by breakers. The fairway, which has a least depth of 9.1m, passes between Causamul Rock and Molla Rocks, which extend up to about 0.5 mile S from the W extremity of North Uist. The sea within this sound is comparatively smooth even during strong W winds.

**Caution.**—Deasker and Causamul should not be closely approached as undiscovered dangers may exist in their vicinity.

**6.18 Off-lying dangers.**—The area lying W of the Heisker Islands consists of a large number of rock pinnacles which rise steeply from the seabed. An area of pinnacles, with a least depth of 28.5m, lies centered 8 miles WNW of Shillay; another area, with a least depth of 30m, lies 5 miles W of Shillay; and another area, with a least depth of 17.4m, lies 3.5 miles SW of Shillay.

**Haskeir Island** (57°42'N., 7°41'W.) lies 7.5 miles NW of Ard an Runair, the W extremity of North Uist, and is 36m high in its SW part. This island, which is marked by a light, appears as two separate islets when viewed from the NW or SE. It should be given a wide berth. Anchorage in the vicinity of the island is poor because of the rocky bottom, but in fine weather, anchorage is possible in depths up to 13m, rock, about 250m ESE of the S extremity.

**Haskeir Aag** (57°41'N., 7°43'W.), lying 1 mile SW of Haskeir Island, is a group consisting of five bare rocks, the tallest being 25m high.

**6.19 Ard a Mhorain** (57°42'N., 7°19'W.) is the N extremity of a low and sandy peninsula that extends N from the N side of North Uist. It is 38m high at the W side and gradually slopes E to a low and stony point. Numerous detached rocks and shoals lie up to 1.5 miles offshore between Griminish Point, located 3.6 miles NE of Ard an Runair, and Ard a Mhorain. Griminish Point has a narrow neck which is perforated by caves on both sides and has two surface holes. During gales, conspicuous water spouts rise into the air from these two holes and are reported to be visible from up to 10 miles seaward.

**Leac Bhan** (57°42'N., 7°12'W.), the N extremity of North Uist, is located 3 miles E of Ard a Mhorain. A hill, 65m high, rises 0.5 mile S of this point.

A shallow bay indents the coast between Ard a Mhorain and Leac Bhan and is fronted by a large wedge-shaped area. This area extends up to 4 miles N and is encumbered by a group of islands and several shoals. Channels used by small vessels lead between some of the islands and shoals. The shallow bay is fringed by drying sands and its W half is foul. Lingay, an islet, lies at the edge of the drying sands in the NE part of the bay. It



is grassy and 32m high. Although the entire bay is shallow, anchorage for very small vessels is available in depths up to 5m close SW of this islet and the approach has a least depth of 3.6m. Local knowledge is required.

**Berneray** (57°44'N., 7°10'W.) lies close N of Leac Bhan. Bays Loch indents the SE side of this hilly island. Anchorage is available in a depth of 3.6m, mud, within this bay, but the approach is so encumbered with rocks and shoals that entry is only practical for very small vessels with local knowledge. A pier, protected by a breakwater, is situated near the head of the bay and is used by fishing vessels.

**6.20 Pabbay** (57°46'N., 7°14'W.), an island, lies 4.5 miles NNE of Ard a Mhorain and Beinn a Charnain, a sharp-peaked hill, rises in its NE part. This conspicuous hill is 194m high and has much the same appearance from all directions. Anchorage is available in a depth of 11m, sand, about 0.2 mile E of the island. Spuir Reef, which dries, lies 1.4 miles WSW of the S extremity of Pabbay. Spuir, a small and dark islet, lies 0.8 mile SW of this reef and is surrounded by foul ground. The Sound of Spuir leads between the islet and Pabbay. This passage has depths of 5.5 to 10.3m in the fairway, which is 0.5 mile wide between Spuir Reef and the foul ground extending SW from the SW side of Pabbay. Spuir Reef and McIver Rocks, lying 1 mile SSE, are marked by breakers. During NW gales, the swell is reported to break across this sound. Local knowledge is advised for transiting this passage.

**Vallay** (57°40'N., 7°26'W.) lies close off the N coast of North Uist and is marked by a light at its W end. Griminish Harbor, an inlet, is entered between the W extremity of this island and the N shore of North Uist. It is shallow and obstructed by drying rocks. A pier is situated within the inlet and is used by fishing vessels. Local knowledge is essential for entering.

**Shillay** (57°48'N., 7°16'W.) lies 1 mile N of Pabbay and is 79m high. The slope on the N side of this island terminates abruptly in dark cliffs, 30m high, but the S side slopes gradually to the shore. Little Shillay, a black rock, lies 300m SW of the SW extremity of the island and is 28m high.

The Sound of Shillay is the passage leading between Pabbay and Shillay. The fairway of this sound lies midway between the islands, is free of dangers, and has a least depth of 10.5m. Temporary anchorage, sheltered from winds from NW through N to NE, is available in depths up to 9m, sand and rock, about 0.3 mile SW of the E extremity of Shillay. The tidal current in the sound attains a rate of 1 knot at springs.

**6.21 The Sound of Harris** (57°44'N., 7°05'W.) and the Sound of Barra are the only navigable channels leading through The Outer Hebrides. However, navigation in or through these passages without local knowledge is not advisable because of the many dangers, intricate fairways, and strong tidal currents.

The bottom consists, in general, of fine white shells and sand, interspersed with rocks. A reddish-brown seaweed grows on almost all the rocks, which may easily be distinguished during favorable conditions.

The main channel in the Sound of Harris leads along the NE shore from Renish Point, the SE extremity of South Harris, to

Jane's Tower (57°46'N., 7°02'W.), a conspicuous cairn resembling a haystack, where it divides into two branch channels, the E being Leverburgh Channel and the W being Stanton Channel. These branch channels converge again to the S of Red Rock Beacon and form Outer Stromay Channel. Stanton Channel has a controlling depth of 4.9m and Outer Stromay Channel has a least depth of 5.5m. Leverburgh Channel has a controlling depth of 4.2m, but is very constricted. The Sound of Stromay branches off from Leverburgh Channel and leads directly to the open sea. It has a least depth of 7.3m in the fairway, but is very narrow and unmarked.

The NW approach from the Atlantic is marked by hills, islands, and headlands, which can be easily identified. Ben Chaipaval, 364m high, stands on the N side of the entrance and has a double peak. It can be seen above the other mountains from less than 6 miles off the coast.

There are no licensed pilots for the Sound of Harris, but fisherman acquainted with the channels may be available at several small places. A recommended route track through the sound is shown on local charts of the area.

In the narrow channels, the tidal currents may attain rates of up to 5 knots at springs. In the wider channels, these currents attain lesser rates, but are still strong.

**6.22 Toe Head** (57°50'N., 7°08'W.), the NW extremity of the peninsula of Taobh Deas, is a bold, bluff, and cliffy point. Rubha an Teampuill, a point, is located 2 miles SE of the head and surmounted by the isolated and conspicuous ruins of an ancient building. Bideinan, which has a notched appearance when viewed from the SE, is a prominent bare ridge standing 1.3 miles SE of Rubha an Teampuill. Rubha Charnain, located 0.7 mile SE of the ridge, is a flat point, 6m high. Kyles Lodge, a large white building with a slate roof, stands on the S side of this point and is conspicuous. The upper part of this building is visible from the NW, but is more conspicuous from the S.

**Coppay** (57°50'N., 7°10'W.), a small island, lies in the NW entrance to the sound, 1.2 miles WSW of Toe Head. This island is 32m high and its green and grassy top contrasts with the black rocks of its lower part. Kelpy Rock, with a least depth of 6.1m, lies 0.4 mile N of the island.

Ensay, 47m high, lies with Rubha nan Sgarbh, its N extremity, located 4 miles SE of Coppay. A sandy beach extending between the NW and N extremities of this island shows up distinctly. A prominent house is situated on the E side of the island. Killegray, 43m high, lies close S of Ensay. A peculiar, flat-topped mound, covered with grass, rises on the NW extremity of this island and a house, fronted by a small jetty, stands on the E side of the island.

**Caution.**—The sea bottom between Rubh an Teampuill and Toe Head and more than halfway across the NW entrance of the sound affords poor holding ground. It consists mainly of smooth rock covered thinly in a few places by patches of sand. Although the tidal currents in this vicinity are weak, anchorage is reported to be unsafe, even for a few hours.

**6.23 Isle of Lewis** (58°00'N., 6°50'W.) extends 55 miles NE from the Sound of Harris to the Butt of Lewis and has two names. Harris, the S part of the Isle of Lewis, is mountainous and Lewis, the N part, is comparatively low, with only three

hills. Harris is also divided into South Harris and North Harris by West Loch Tarbert.

The W coasts of Harris and Lewis, between Toe Head and Gallan Head, 24 miles N, appear bold and rugged from seaward. From Toe Head to West Loch Tarbert, 7 miles N, the land is not as rocky or desolate in appearance as that farther N, the coast being sandy in places. However, it is difficult to distinguish one part of this coast from another in thick weather.

**Gasker** (57°59'N., 7°18'W.) lies 6.5 miles off the coast of North Harris and 10 miles NNW of Toe Head. This islet is fringed by a reef and seals herd on it during the autumn. Gasker Beg, a bare rock, lies 0.7 mile ESE of the islet and is 10m high.

**Gallan Head** (58°14'N., 7°02'W.), a flattish headland, terminates in cliffs, 15 to 60m high. A lighted radio mast, 257m high, stands 0.4 mile S of this headland and is very conspicuous.

From this headland, which forms the S entrance point of East Loch Roag, to the Butt of Lewis, 23 miles NE, the coast is comparatively low and level. A few white farmhouses and churches are the only buildings to be seen along the W side of Harris and Lewis, but these are mostly not distinguishable until close offshore.

**Clisham** (57°58'N., 6°49'W.), the highest mountain of The Hebrides, rises on North Harris, 13 miles NE of Toe Head. This mountain is 797m high, but its conical summit is generally obscured by clouds.

Generally, the hills rising on Lewis do not approach in height those rising on Harris. Muirneag, 246m high, rises inland 10 miles S of the Butt of Lewis. When seen from the S or N, this prominent hill appears with a double flat summit, but from the E or W, it appears with a single summit sloping gradually on either side. A prominent radio mast, 172m high, stands on the summit of Eitshal, which is 367m high, and rises 15 miles ESE of Gallan Head.

**6.24 Taransay** (57°54'N., 7°01'W.), 256m high, is divided into two parts by a low and sandy neck. This island occupies a large part of the S approach to West Loch Tarbert and is separated from the mainland by the Sound of Taransay. Corran Raah, a low and sandy point, extends 0.4 mile into this sound from the middle of the E shore of the NE part of the island.

Middle Bo lies about 1.2 miles SSW of the SE end of Taransay. This shoal has a least depth of 6.1m and breaks in very heavy weather. Aird Vanish is the SW and smaller part of Taransay. Old Rocks lies about 1 mile SE of the S extremity of Aird Vanish. It consists of two rocks, the S one has a least depth of 0.7m and the N one is awash. Bo Usbig, a rock, lies about 0.5 mile SE of Old Rocks and dries 1.5m.

**Camus Nam Borgh** (Borve Bay) (57°50'N., 7°03'W.) lies NE of Toe Head and indents the NE side of South Harris. It affords temporary anchorage in a depth of 24m, sand and rock. Good shelter can be found here in SW gales. However, the bay is exposed to the W and NW and can be dangerous with strong winds from these quarters.

The NE part of the Sound of Taransay is sheltered and affords the best anchorage along this part of Harris for large vessels. There are depths of 9 to 16m over a bottom of muddy sand. The recommended anchorage lies about 0.3 mile E of Corran Raah where the tidal currents are very weak.

Anchorage can also be taken in depths up to 16m farther N, about 0.3 mile offshore and midway between Corran Raah and the NE extremity of Taransay. However, during strong NW winds, vessels should anchor nearer to Corran Raah in order to obtain better shelter.

**6.25 West Loch Tarbert** (57°56'N., 7°00'W.) is entered between Aird Vanish, the SW part of Taransay, and Horsanish, 4.3 miles N.

Bo More, which dries 0.3m, lies about 2 miles W of Horsanish and is the W most of three rocks known as Old Rocks. A shoal patch, with a depth of 12.3m, lies about 0.3 mile WNW of Bo More and the sea breaks on it during heavy gales. Taransay Glorigs, a group of above and below-water rocks, lies between 2 and 3 miles SW of Horsanish. Glorig Sgoillte, a conspicuous rock, is 12m high. It is the largest rock and lies near the S end of the group.

Bo Meadhonach, a rock, lies about 2 miles WSW of Horsanish. It has a least depth of 4.2m and is located about midway between Old Rocks and Taransay Glorigs.

Soay Beag and Soay Mor are two islets which lie 1.4 miles NE of the N extremity of Taransay. Both of these islets are 35m high and are fronted by foul ground.

**Isay** (57°55'N., 6°54'W.), a flat and green islet, is 17m high and lies in the middle of the loch, 2.5 from the head. An above-water rock lies 0.5 mile NE of this islet. The principal anchorage within the loch lies in depths of 12 to 22m, mud, ESE of Isay. Although this anchorage is somewhat open to the NW, there is never a heavy sea. However, heavy squalls sometimes come down from the shore during strong S winds. Small vessels can obtain anchorage about 200m WNW of a pier which projects from the S side of the head of the loch.

Loch Bun Abhainn-Eadar, a small inlet, is entered 1 mile NE of Isay. It provides safe anchorage and is clear of dangers. Small vessels can obtain anchorage in depths of 5 to 13m, mud, about 0.5 mile within this loch. Loch Meavig, another small inlet, lies 1.5 miles NNW of Isay. It has a least width of 100m and general depths of 3.6 to 9m, soft mud with oysters. This loch provides anchorage to small vessels, but halfway up this lock the depths shoal rapidly and the head dries. An overhead power cable, with a vertical clearance of 21m, spans this loch.

Loch Leosavay is entered 0.5 mile NNW of Soay Beg. This inlet has a least width of 100m and depths of 5 to 16m. Its outer part is clear of dangers, but several rocks lie near the head. Glas Sgeir, a pillar-shaped rock, lies 250m offshore in the entrance. Small vessels can anchor in depths of 6 to 7m, mud, off the NE shore and about 0.5 mile NW of this rock.

**Tarbert** (57°54'N., 6°49'W.), a village, stands at the head of the loch on a narrow isthmus which separates East Loch Tarbert from West Loch Tarbert. Two small piers project from the head and are used by small craft.

**6.26 Hushinish Bay** (57°59'N., 7°05'W.) lies 1.4 miles NW of Horsanish, the N entrance point of West Loch Tarbert, and is sheltered on its N and W sides by a small peninsula of which Hushinish Point is the SW extremity. Hushinish Glorigs, a group of above-water rocks, lies in the S approach to the bay, 0.8 mile SE of Hushinish Point. The bay affords temporary anchorage in a depth of 12m, sand, but local knowledge is advised.



TARBERT HARBOR



TARBERT HARBOR

**Scarp** (58°02'N., 7°08'W.), 306m high, lies with its S extremity located 1 mile N of Hushinish Point and is fringed by foul ground and rocks. Caolas an Scarp, a shallow strait, leads between this island and Lewis, but should not be used without local knowledge. A bar, with a depth of about 1m, extends across the middle of this strait. Fladday, a small islet, lies in the N entrance of the strait. During the summer, small vessels can anchor in a depth of 8m in the S part of this strait, close S of the bar. Small vessels can also anchor in depths of 9 to 10m in the N part of the strait between the NE side of Scarp and the W side of Fladday. Both of these anchorages are unsafe in winter and the sea breaks over this strait during gales.

**Kearstay** (58°03'N., 7°09'W.), fringed by foul ground, lies close off the N side of Scarp. This prominent islet rises to a peak near the W end where it is divided by a rocky cleft. Temporary anchorage can be obtained in depths of 9 to 16m,

sand, at the E entrance of the channel which lies between this islet and the N side of Scarp.

Duisker, a group of above and below-water rocks, lies centered 1 mile NW of Kearstay and is marked by breakers, except in very good weather. The tallest rock is black and 6m high. Bo Ban, the W most rock, dries 3.7m and lies 1.4 miles WNW of Kearstay. Buachaill Rock, with a least depth of 2m, lies 0.8 mile N of Bo Ban and is the NW most rock of the group.

**Mealasta Island** (58°05'N., 7°08'W.), fringed by foul ground, lies 2.3 miles NNE of Kearstay. This island is 75m high and its W side consists of prominent reddish quartz rock and patches of grass. The main approach to Loch Resort lies S of the island.

**6.27 Loch Resort** (58°03'N., 7°00'W.) is entered between Ru Glas, 2.5 miles E of the N extremity of Scarp, and Grobadh nah Uinneag, 0.3 mile S. A basin, lying 2.5 miles within the loch, opens to a width of 0.4 mile and provides safe anchorage in a depth of 13m, soft mud, for small vessels. Above this basin, the loch narrows toward its head and the bottom consists of soft mud with oyster beds. Taran More, 302m high, is a conspicuous cliff which rises on the S side of the loch, 0.7 mile SE of Ru Glas. During strong S winds, the squalls which come down off this cliff are the most violent.

**Loch Tealasavay** (58°03'N., 7°02'W.) is entered 1.5 miles N of the entrance to Loch Resort. Creagan Gorra Cleite, 120m high, is a conspicuous hill which rises at the head of this loch. The loch is mostly used by only small craft.

**Loch Tamanavay** (58°04'N., 7°03'W.) is entered 0.5 mile N of the entrance to Loch Tealasavay. Bo Thorcuil, a group of below-water rocks, lies up to 0.5 mile SW of the NW entrance point of the loch. Anchorage can be obtained by small craft at several locations within the loch, but local knowledge is necessary as marine farms are situated along the shores.

**6.28 Aird Brenish** (58°08'N., 7°08'W.), a broad and rocky headland, is located 2 miles N of Kearstay. Several small islets and rocks lie offshore between this latter island and the headland. The headland is fringed with bare rocks sloping to the sea and is backed by very high land.

**Aird Fenish** (58°09'N., 7°07'W.), a salient point, is located 0.8 mile NE of the N extremity of Aird Brenish. This point is bare, rocky, light brown, and slopes abruptly to the sea.

Camus Uige (Camus Uig) lies on the NE side of Ard More Mangersta. This bay has an entrance 0.7 mile wide and is open between N and WNW. It affords temporary refuge to small vessels during SW gales. Anchorage is available in a depth of 24m, sand, about 0.2 mile within the entrance and about 200m offshore. Mealisval Peak, 572m high, rises 3.5 miles S of the entrance to the bay and is conspicuous. Several large and prominent sandhills rise near the head of the bay. Sheilavig Skerry, an islet, lies close off the NE entrance point of the bay. It is 7m high and is fronted by foul ground. A shoal patch, with a depth of 5.2m, lies about 0.3 mile SE of this islet.

**Ard More Mangersta** (58°11'N., 7°06'W.), a promontory, is located 1.8 miles NNE of Aird Fenish and rises to a height of 69m. It is fronted by near vertical cliffs and four prominent radio masts stand on the NW extremity. Eilean Molach, a prominent small island, lies close offshore, at the S end of this promontory.

**6.29 Loch Roag** (58°15'N., 6°52'W.) lies between Gallan Head and Tuimpan, 8.2 miles ENE. It recedes SE and is divided by a chain of islands and rocks into West Loch Roag and East Loch Roag. East Loch Roag is the only harbor on the W coast of The Hebrides which is easily accessible by large vessels during approaching gales.

**West Loch Roag** (58°16'N., 7°00'W.) is entered between Gallan Head and Old Hill, an islet lying 4 miles ENE. It extends 7 miles SE to the head. The inner part of this loch provides extensive and sheltered anchorage in depths up to 22m, mud. However, it is not easily accessible as the approach is encumbered by numerous islands, islets, and rocks.

**Old Hill** (58°17'N., 6°55'W.), a conspicuous islet, is 92m high and has a peculiar lump-like appearance when seen from the E or W. From the N, it appears more elongated. The N side of this islet consists of dark and cavernous cliffs.

Bearasay, a small islet, lies 0.3 mile SE of Old Hill and is separated from it by a deep and clear channel. This islet is 54m high and has a flat top. A troublesome sea is reported to occur in the channel when the wind opposes the tidal current. Floday, another islet, lies 0.4 mile S of Bearasay and is 18m high. Tamna, a flat and grass-covered islet, lies close S of Floday and is 7m high. Fleasgeir is a conspicuous, sharp pointed, and barren rock. It is 13m high and the tallest of a chain of rocks which extend N from the N end of Floday.

**6.30 Harsgeir** (58°16'N., 6°54'W.) lies 0.6 mile SW of Floday. This islet is flat, 12m high, and prominent. Sgeir Na Galla, a rock, lies about 0.5 mile W of Floday. It dries 2.7m and always shows in the trough of the swell. Little Bernera, 39m high, lies 0.5 mile E of Floday. This small island consists of soft, grassy knolls and its shores are fringed with white sand.

Great Bernera lies close S of Little Bernera. This island is 84m high and has undulating features. Greinam, a small islet, is 16m high and lies close off the W side of Great Bernera, 1.2 miles S of Floday. This Ugly Rocks, which dry 1.2m, lie between 0.6 and 0.8 mile S of Greinam and extend up to 0.4 mile from the W side of Great Bernera.

**Pabay More** (58°14'N., 6°56'W.) is an island with a prominent summit rising near its S end. Vacsay, another prominent island, lies 0.3 mile SE of Pabay More. Caolas na Sgeire Leithe, a channel, leads between these two islands. It has a least depth of 6.7m, but should not be attempted without local knowledge.

Kyles Pabay, a shallow strait, leads between the W sides of Pabay More and Vacsay and the NE side of Lewis. Valtos, a small village, is situated on the SW side of this channel. It is fronted by a jetty which is used by fishing vessels.

**6.31 Stung** (58°13'N., 6°55'W.), 33m high, is a steep and salient point located at the entrance to the Sound of Vuia. Vuia More, an island, lies 0.5 mile SE of Vacsay and Mullach na Ben, 67m high, rises near its center. This hill is conspicuous and slopes steeply on its SW side.

Bogha Maighdein lies 0.3 mile N of Vuia More and dries 2.1m. Sgeir Dubh Beg lies close E of Bogha Maighdein. This small and black rock is 2.4m high. Sgeir Dhubh More, another small and black rock, lies 150m SE of Sgeir Dubh Beg and is 5.5m high.

The Sound of Vuia, which is the recommended channel, has a navigable width of about 0.2 mile and leads between Vuia More and Lewis. Geile Sgeir, a rocky islet, is 4m high and lies in the fairway at the N entrance to the channel, midway between Rubha Rollanish and Stung. Vessels can pass on either side of this islet. Boghna na Muilne, which dries 0.6m, lies midway along the sound in the middle of the fairway.

Vuia Beg, an island, is 67m high and lies 0.3 mile S of the end of the Sound of Vuia. Middle Shoal, with a least depth of 6.1m, lies about 0.3 mile W of this island. Gousam, a grassy islet, is 14m high and lies 0.5 mile WNW of Vuia Beg. Floday, a heather-covered islet, is 44m high and lies 0.6 mile W of Vuia Beg. A narrow boat channel, with depths of 2 to 5m, leads between Gousam and the NE side of Floday. Cliatasay, a heather-covered islet, is 25m high and lies close E of Vuia Beg. Glas Eilean, a green islet, is 8m high and lies 0.4 mile ENE of Cliatasay. Anchorage may be obtained in depths up to 14m, mud, within Meavig Bay which lies W of Gousam and Floday. The entrance fairway leading to this anchorage is narrowed to a width of about 250m by shoal water extending up to about 100m from Gousam and from the N shore. The tide rises in this bay about 3.8m at springs and 2.4m at neaps.

**Loch Meavig** (58°12'N., 6°54'W.), which provides a harbor for small vessels, has general depths of 3.6 to 9m with a bottom of very soft mud. It is entered 0.4 mile W of Floday. The NE shore of the loch is formed by a low spit of well-cultivated land on which stands Free Church Manse, a conspicuous house. An overhead power cable, with a vertical clearance of 21m, crosses this loch.

Anchorage can be obtained in depths of 11 to 22m, mud, within the Bay of Floday, which lies between Floday and Vuia

Beg. Good anchorage can also be found in depths of 12 to 26m, mud, to the N of Cliatasay and Glas Eilean.

**6.32 East Loch Roag** (58°16'N., 6°50'W.) is entered between Old Hill and Tuimpan, a conspicuous point 4 miles ENE. This inlet is the only harbor on the W coast of The Hebrides which is easily accessible by large vessels. The loch is open to the N, but the swell gradually decreases as it narrows and almost disappears 3 miles within the entrance. The fairway has general depths of 22 to 37m, which gradually decrease, over a bottom of shells, sand, and mud with occasionally small patches of rock.

The N side of the entrance to the loch is formed by the peninsula of Ard Laimishader. Loch Carloway indents the S side of this peninsula and has depths of 8 to 18m, over a bottom of stiff mud, which decrease gradually. This small loch provides shelter for small vessels in the summer, but there is considerable swell during NW gales. Tin Rocks, a group of below-water rocks which dry up to 1.8m in places, lies in the middle of the fairway, about 0.3 mile within the entrance of this loch. The fairway leading N of this group of rocks is about 200m yards wide and fairway leading S is about 150m wide. Creag More, a hill, rises close to the S shore of the loch. It is 66m high and has a conspicuous blunt peak. Bindalein Island, which forms the S entrance point of Loch Carloway, is steep-to except on its SE side where it is connected to the shore by a drying reef. The best anchorage is in a depth of 9m, sand and mud, in mid-channel about 0.5 mile within the entrance of the loch.

**6.33 Campay** (58°16'N., 6°52'W.), an islet, lies 1.5 miles SE of Old Hill. A rounded hill, 36m high, terminates in a vertical cliff at the NE end of this islet. A conspicuous natural arch, through which the sea breaks, has formed at this cliff.

Kealasay, an islet, is 17m high and lies 0.2 mile SE of Campay. Kyles Campay, a deep channel, leads between Campay and Kealasay and its fairway is clear of dangers. Cruitar, a bare rock, is 3m high. It lies 0.3 mile E of Little Bernera and nearly abreast of Temple Sand, a conspicuous sandy beach, which extends between the NE and SE extremities of the island.

Kyles of Little Bernera is a constricted channel leading between Great Bernera and Little Bernera. It is only suitable for small vessels and free from the swell. Anchorage may be taken in depths up to 7m, good holding ground, within this channel. Sgeir a Chaolais, a rock, lies in the fairway of the channel, 0.4 mile W of the entrance. It dries 1.9m and is marked by a beacon. The narrow channel leading N of this rock has a least depth of 4.6m and the channel leading S of it has a navigable width of 60m and a least depth of 7.8m. Small vessels can anchor in depths up to 8m, mud, about 200m W of the rock.

**6.34 Keava** (58°13'N., 6°46'W.), an island, is 26m high and lies in the fairway of the S part of East Loch Roag. Greinam, an islet, lies 0.2 mile NNE of Keava. It is 5m high and a light is shown from the S part. Vacasay Island lies on the W side of the fairway, 0.7 mile WNW of Greinam, and has a rather sharp summit, 28m high. Dubh Thob, an inlet, lies on the W side of Vacasay and is occasionally entered by small vessels with local

knowledge. A rock, which dries 2.1m, lies in the fairway in the narrowest part of this inlet. The land at the head is low and a small pier is situated on the W side of the inlet.

The navigable channel leading between Keava and Greinam has a least depth of 9m and a least width of 200m. Kyles Keava, the channel lying W of Keava, has a least navigable width of 150m and depths of 9 to 20m in the fairway. Sgeirean Barraglom, a rock which dries 0.6m, lies on the W side of the fairway, about 0.2 mile WNW of the NW extremity of Keava. Water Rock, which dries 0.6m, lies on the E side of the fairway about 100m NNW of the NW extremity of Keava. Eilean Kearnstay, an island, lies in the middle of the loch, 0.3 mile S of Keava, and is 36m high. Narrow channels lie on each side of this island. The W channel has a least depth of 9.7m in the fairway and a least navigable width of 50m. The E channel has a least depth of 2.7m, but is seldom used. Submarine cables extend across both of these channels.

The wide clear bay located between Eughlam, a narrow islet lying off the E side of Great Bernera, and Eilean More affords safe anchorage in depths up to 26m, muddy sand with good holding ground. It is reported that large vessels have remained at anchor here for up to six weeks during the winter, with no crew on board. The bay is open to the N and some slight swell comes in during gales from that direction.

The entire width of East Loch Roag in this vicinity affords anchorage in depths of 12 to 20m if required, but the holding ground on the E side is not as good as that on the W side.

**6.35 Breasclete Bay** (58°13'N., 6°45'W.) lies on the E side of the loch and E of Keava. It affords good and safe anchorage in depths of 7 to 14m, mud, with good holding ground. Vessels are advised to anchor in depths of 9 to 11m about 0.3 mile NE of the SE extremity of Keava.

**Port A Chaoil** (58°14'N., 6°47'W.), an inlet, lies on the E side of East Loch Roag, 0.7 miles within the entrance. It affords good anchorage to small vessels in a depth of 8m, but several shoals obstruct the approach.

Loch Barraglom is located with its E entrance near the SE extremity of Great Bernera. It is occasionally used by small vessels, but is mostly shallow and obstructed by rocks. Loch Ceann Hulavig, located at the head of East Loch Roag, is seldom entered by vessels. This inlet is generally shallow and the tidal currents at its entrance are strong. A submarine cable and several submarine water pipelines extend across the entrance to this loch.

**Ard Laimishader** (58°17'N., 6°49'W.), located 1.5 miles SW of Tuimpan, is the NW extremity of a headland which rises to Ben Laimishader, 114m high. This latter hill has a prominent pointed apex with an abrupt descent on its E side. A light is shown from a conspicuous white hut, 5m high, standing on the point.

The stretch of coast extending between the E entrance point of East Loch Roag and Aird More Bragor, 6.4 miles NE, should be given a wide berth. It is indented by several small inlets which can afford shelter during offshore winds for small vessels with local knowledge.

**6.36 Aird More Bragor** (58°21'N., 6°40'W.), 37m high, is a broad, rugged, and indented headland. The coast extends

ENE for 4 miles from this headland to Aird Barvas. The S part of this stretch consists of cliffs, 15 to 30m high, and the N part is low and interspersed with sandy patches. Between Aird Barvas and Aird Dell, 8 miles NE, the coast consists of grassy banks which slope moderately to the sea.

Toa Galson, a prominent rocky point, is located 1.8 miles SW of Aird Dell and has a black vertical face, 29m high. A conspicuous farmhouse stands 0.7 mile SW of this point.

Hen Shoal, with a depth of 8.8m, lies 1 mile offshore, 2 miles W of Toa Galson. Dell Rock, which is steep, lies 0.4 mile NNW of Aird Dell.

**Cunndal Bay** (58°29'N., 6°18'W.) lies between Aird Dell and the SW extremity of the Butt of Lewis. Its shore is fringed by extensive sandy beaches. A church and several houses are situated close inland of this bay and are visible from seaward.

**6.37 The Butt of Lewis** (58°31'N., 6°16'W.), the N extremity of The Outer Hebrides, is fronted with vertical cliffs, 15 to 21m high, and fringed by foul ground. This point, which is very radar conspicuous, rises to a summit, 41m high, about 1 mile S of its N extremity. A main light is shown from a very conspicuous tower, 37m high, standing on the N extremity of

the point, at the brink of the cliff. A prominent two-storied building stands close S of the light, but is not visible from the W. Several radio masts stand 1.3 miles S of the light.

Lith Sgeir, a steep-to rock, is the N most of several above-water rocks which extend up to 0.2 mile N of the point.



*Photo courtesy of Scottish Radiance*  
BUTT OF LEWIS